



## **Marquette County Ambassadors**

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February 6, 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Commission Secretary, Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
CY-B402  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Proceeding 03-16

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I am writing on behalf of the Marquette County Ambassadors, a public and private sector membership based organization that serves Marquette County, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was passed by Congress in order to bring competition to the telephone industry. The intent was to open the market and level the playing field, giving consumers more choices, and hopefully, lower prices.

Given the rural nature and vast geography of the Upper Peninsula, communication is vitally important to our business community. As such, our organization recently voted to support SBC Ameritech's entry into Michigan's long distance market, providing they meet the necessary criteria to allow for fair and open competition within the long distance market. We understand the importance of having many competitive telecom choices to meet the growing and diverse needs of our industrial and business base.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Edmark".

Tom Edmark  
Vice Leader

Cc: Steve Balbierz